



Montana Communities and Wildfire Conference

Northwest Management, Inc.

Gary Ellingson, B.S.

P.O. Box 565
Helena, Montana 59624
406-442-7555 Telephone
www.Consulting-Foresters.com



February 27th – March 1st, 2006

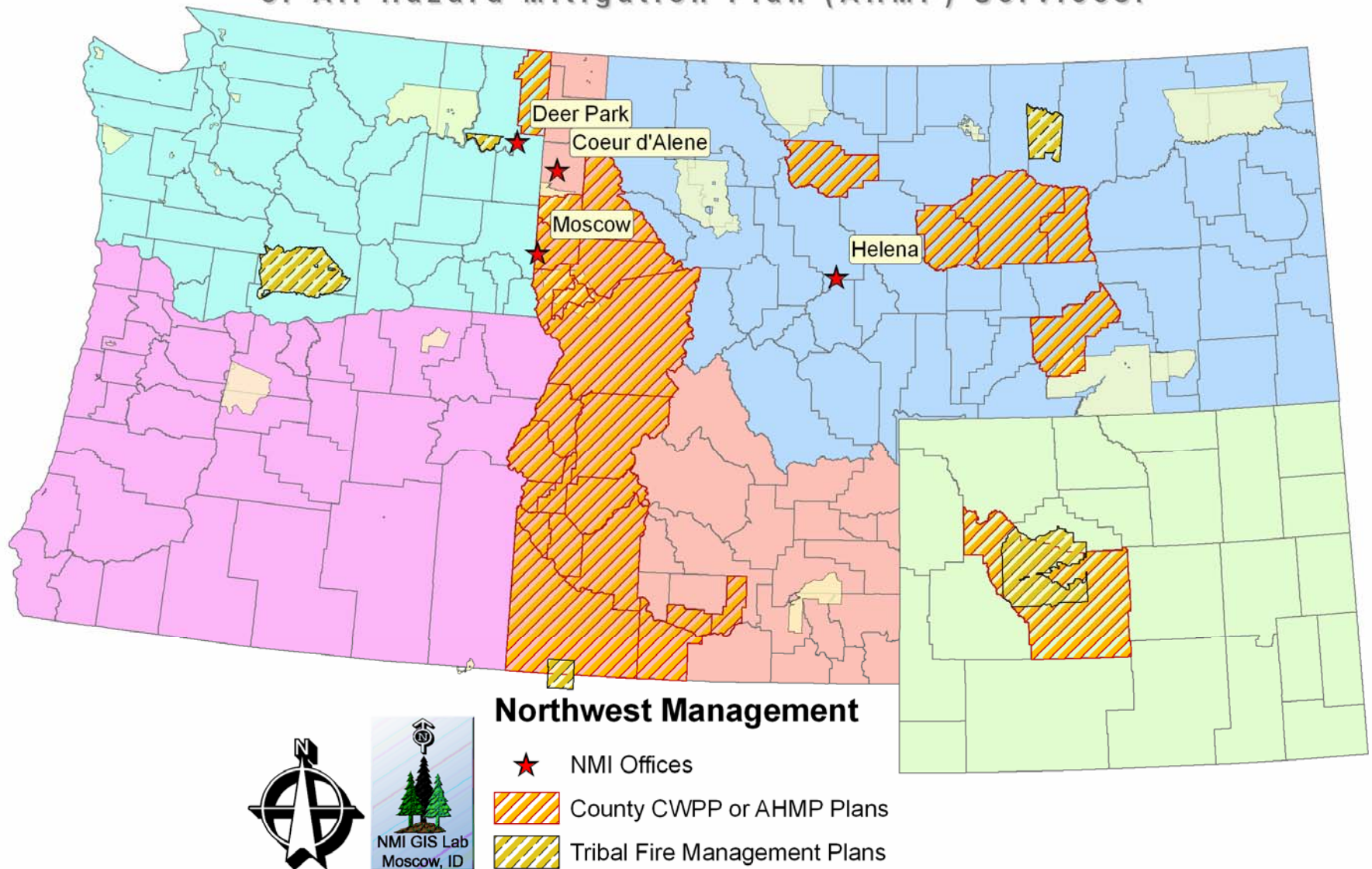


Northwest Management, Inc.

- Serving the Western U.S. since 1984
- Main Office in Moscow, Idaho
 - Deer Park, Washington
 - Hayden, Idaho
 - Helena, Montana
- Full Service Natural Resource Consultants
 - Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Planning
 - All Hazards Mitigation Planning
 - Fuels Reduction Project Implementation

*Providing a balanced approach to natural
resource management*

Counties and Tribes where Northwest Management, Inc., has provided
or is providing Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP),
or All Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP) Services.



Northwest Mangement, Inc.
Providing a Balanced Approach
to Natural Resource Management



2004 Hot Creek Fire, Elmore County
James Creek Road near Atlanta, ID



What does the public expect from the fire community? (Think about Katrina)

- Efficient and Cost Effective Emergency Response
- Prepared Responders (skills, training and equipment)
- Information and Awareness (an informed public)
- Mitigation (Why wasn't something done before this happened?)
- Coordination & Planning (all parties have a say in decision making)

We all share responsibility at some level.



Types of Community Planning Documents

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)
 - aka Fire Mitigation Plan
 - Small scale (individual communities or locations) or Large scale (County or Reservation-wide plans)
 - Funded through National Fire Plan (BLM, RC&D, RAC)
 - Completed by Consultants, County DES, RC&D, others..
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans (PDM)
 - aka All Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP)
 - A CWPP can be a stand alone document; however, to be FEMA compatible, it must be written as one chapter or section of a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan
 - There are many natural or man-caused hazards that may be covered by an All Hazard Mitigation Plan including flood, earthquake, hazardous materials, terrorism, and many others
 - Funded through FEMA
 - County departments often play a larger role in planning



Planning Guidelines

- National Fire Plan (NFP)
 - CWPP
- Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA)
 - CWPP
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - PDM
 - AHMP

Compatibility is Good!



FEMA





National Fire Plan

www.fireplan.gov

- **National Fire Plan (2000)**
 - Preparedness
 - Assuring firefighting resources and personnel are available
 - Rehabilitation & Restoration
 - Emergency stabilization and rehab where fire has occurred
 - Hazardous Fuel Reduction
 - On the ground mitigation
 - Community Protection
 - Assistance for community planning thru grant programs, education (firewise), training & equipment. Delivered by BLM, USFS and State Foresters.
 - Accountability
 - Consistent policy, oversight, coordination



2003 Healthy Forests Restoration Act

www.healthyforests.gov

Excerpts below from Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan – A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities

<http://www.safnet.org/policyandpress/cwpphandbook.pdf>

- Statutory incentives for the USFS and BLM to give consideration to priorities of local communities as they develop and implement hazardous fuel reduction projects.
- Builds on existing efforts to restore healthy forest conditions near communities and essential community infrastructure by authorizing expedited environmental assessment, administrative appeals, and legal review for hazardous fuels projects on federal land.
- The Act emphasizes the need for federal agencies to work collaboratively with communities in developing hazardous fuel reduction projects, and it places priority on treatment areas identified by communities themselves in a CWPP.
- The HFRA provides communities with a tremendous opportunity to influence where and how federal agencies implement fuel reduction projects on federal lands and how additional federal funds may be distributed for projects on nonfederal lands. A CWPP is the most effective way to take advantage of this opportunity.
- Local wildfire protection plans can take a variety of forms, based on the needs of those involved in their development.
- HFRA requires that 60% of BLM & USFS hazardous fuel reduction dollars be spent in the WUI. Counties/Local Committees define the WUI..
- Federal Rules – in order for federal agencies to participate in County or Community fuels reduction projects, these projects must be adjacent to federal lands. CWPP should/must be completed.



2003 Healthy Forests Restoration Act

Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan – A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities

<http://www.safnet.org/policyandpress/cwppphandbook.pdf>

- CWPP benefits include a localized definition and boundary for the wildland-urban interface (WUI). In the absence of a CWPP, HFRA limits the WUI within ½ mile of a community boundary, 1 ½ miles if mitigating circumstances such as steep slopes exist.
- Fuel treatments can occur along evacuation routes regardless of distance from the community.
- Minimum Requirements:
 - Collaboration with local, state government in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
 - Prioritized areas for fuel reduction treatments with recommendations for methods.
 - Treatment of Structural Ignitability. Recommend measures for homeowners and communities to reduce ignitability of structures.



FEMA Requirements



FEMA

- Adoption by Local Government Body
- Multi-Jurisdictional Planning
- Identification of Hazards & Risk Assessment
 - Profiling Hazard Events
 - Mapping Juxtaposition of Hazards, Structures, Infrastructure
 - Potential Dollar Losses to Vulnerable Structures (B/C Analysis)
- Documented Planning Process
- Assessing Vulnerability
- Mitigation Goals
- Analysis of Mitigation Measures
- Monitoring, Evaluating & Updating the Plan (5 year cycles)
- Implementation Through Existing Programs
- Public Involvement



Purpose of Planning Documents

- Protect lives, property, infrastructure, economy, and resident's way of life from wildfire and other disasters.
- NFP, HFRA, and FEMA compatible CWPPs and PDMs open the doors to funding for implementation projects from these organizations and others.
- Required for funding assistance from FEMA during or after a declared disaster event.
- Helps develop committee or county designated Wildland Urban Interface boundaries.
- Helps identify and prioritize projects from a variety of local groups and viewpoints.
- Brings all local planning groups to the table.
- Raises public awareness.



FEMA

February 15, 2006

Honorable Sharon Church-Pratt
Honorable Lan Smith
Honorable Michele Sherrer
Gem County Board of Commissioners
415 E. Main
Emmett, Idaho 83617

Dear Commissioners Church-Pratt, Smith and Sherrer:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved the ***Gem County All Hazard Mitigation Plan*** as a multi-jurisdictional local plan as outlined in 44 CFR Part 201. Gem County and the city of Emmett are now eligible to apply for the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act's hazard mitigation project grants through February 15, 2011.

The plan's approval provides eligibility to apply for mitigation project grants but does not indicate eligibility of the specific action identified within the plan for FEMA grant funding. Project grant applications will be evaluated individually by your state and FEMA according to the specific eligibility and other requirements of the particular hazard mitigation grant program. For example, a mitigation project identified in the approved plan may or may not meet the eligibility requirements for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding.

Over the next five years, we encourage your county and its partners to identify additional mitigation actions and follow the plan's schedule for monitoring and updating the plan. The plan must be reviewed, revised as appropriate, and resubmitted for approval within five years in order to continue project grant eligibility.

If you have questions regarding your plan's approval or FEMA's mitigation grant programs, please contact our state counterpart, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, who coordinates and administers these efforts for local entities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carl D. Cook, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.



Planning is Committee Based

- Shared Vision and Goals
- Risk Assessments
 - Map (GIS) Based Assessments
 - Observation Based Assessments (community assessments)
 - Local Knowledge Based Assessments
- Wildland-Urban Interface & Significant Infrastructure determination
- Development of Treatment Projects and Recommendations
 - Policy Actions
 - Home Defensibility Projects
 - Infrastructure Treatments
 - Resources and Capability Enhancements
 - Regional Land Management Recommendations



Who's on the Planning Committee?

- County Departments
- County Commissioners
- City Mayor Offices
- City Fire Departments
- Rural Fire Departments
- Other Local Associations?
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Homeowner Associations
 - Local Interest Group Representatives
 - Power Company
 - Real Estate Professionals
 - Insurance Providers
- USFS
- BLM
- BIA
- DNRC
- RC&D
- Conservation Districts
- NRCS



Engaging Local Communities

- Press Releases in local media
- Public Mail Survey to be sent to about 235 households in a county
- Public Meetings to be scheduled ahead of draft plan development
- Public Review of the DRAFT Plans will be facilitated once all sections have been completed and reviewed by the committee



Base Map Information

- Digital Elevation Model (DEM)
- Roads, Railroads, Power Lines
- Streams, Lakes, Watersheds
- Property Ownership & Values
- Structures & Emergency Services
- Communities
- Fire Protection Districts (wildfire & structure)
- Vegetation Cover and Density
- Past Fire Ignitions and Extents



Derived Data Layers (GIS)

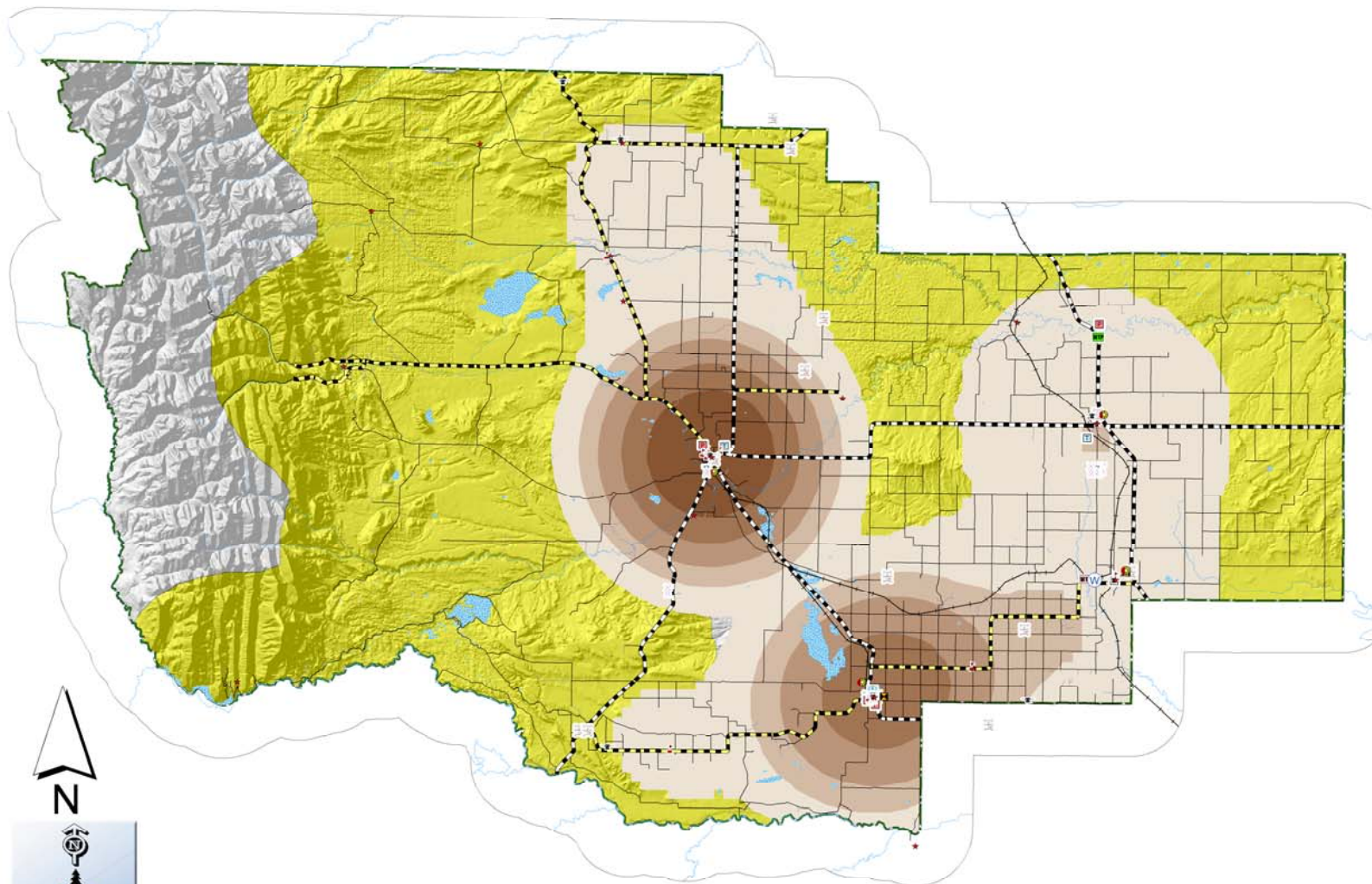
- Wildland-Urban Interface
- Historic Fire Regime
- Current Condition Class
- Predicted Fire Severity
- Fire Prone Landscapes
- Planned or Potential Treatment Areas
- Preparedness Enhancement Areas (fire protection)
- Resources at Risk
- Significant Infrastructure
- Fire Risk Assessments
- Treatment Areas



Wildland-Urban Interface Significant Infrastructure

Legend

- ★ Communities
- INFRASTRUCTURE**
 - 🏠 BUILDING: SHELTER
 - 📦 ABOVE GRD STORAGE
 - 📶 CELL TOWER
 - 📡 RADIO REPEATER
 - 🌊 SEWAGE LAGOON
 - ⚡ SUBSTATION
 - 📞 TELEPHONE SWITCH
 - 🌊 WATERSHED
 - 🏠 WATER TANKS
 - 🌊 WATER TOWERS
 - 📶 WATER WELLS
 - 🌿 TREATMENT WELL
 - 🌊 WATER SOURCE/TREAT
- 🚂 Railroad
- FEMA Access**
 - Primary
 - Secondary
 - Roads
 - Driveways
 - Streams
- 📐 Teton County
- 🌊 Open Water
- WUI: Intermix & Interface**
 - 🟤 High Density
 - 🟡 Medium Density
 - 🟠 Low Density
 - 🟢 Rural Lands
 - 🟣 Wild Lands



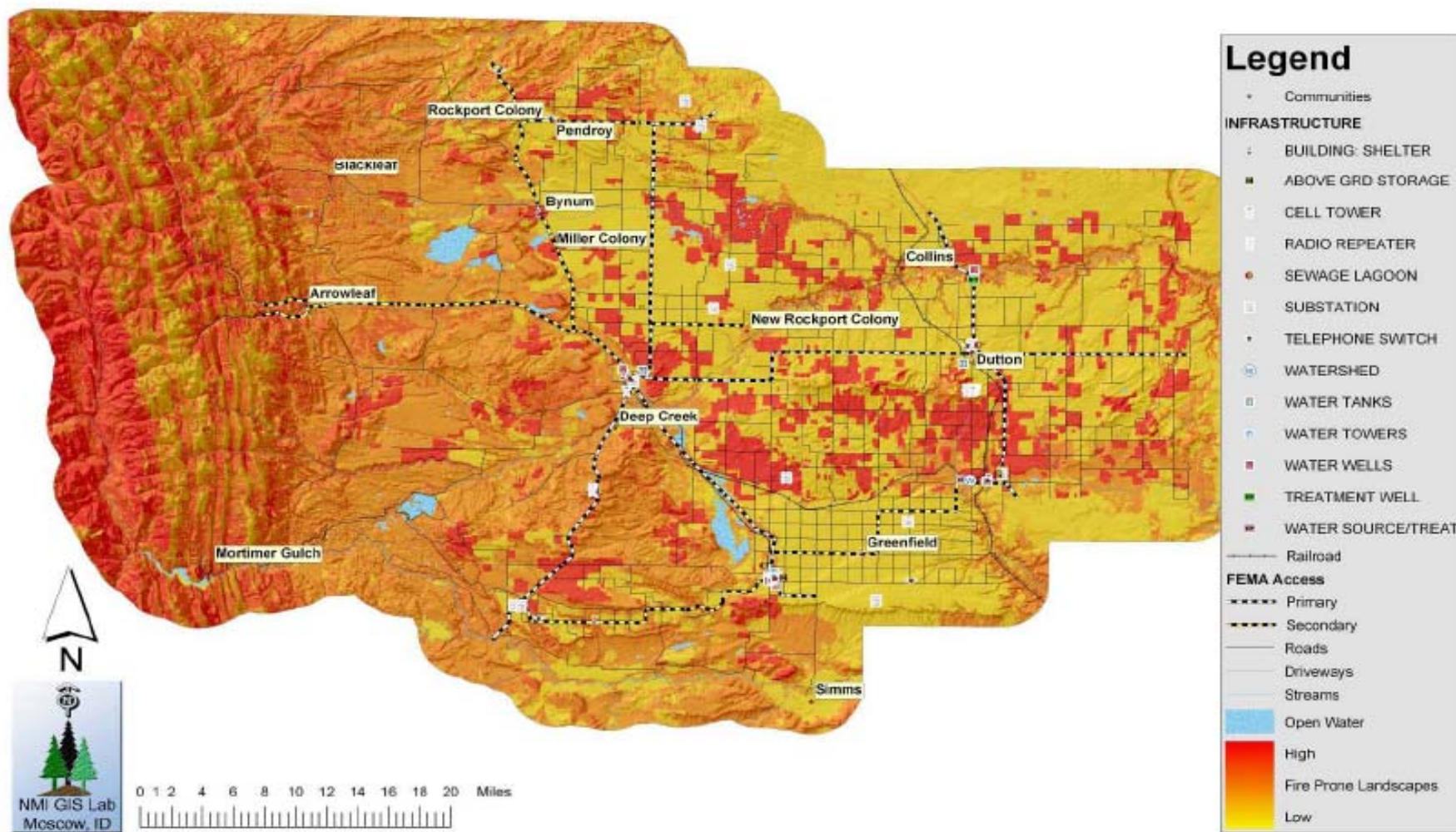
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Teton County, Montana
All Hazards Mitigation Plan



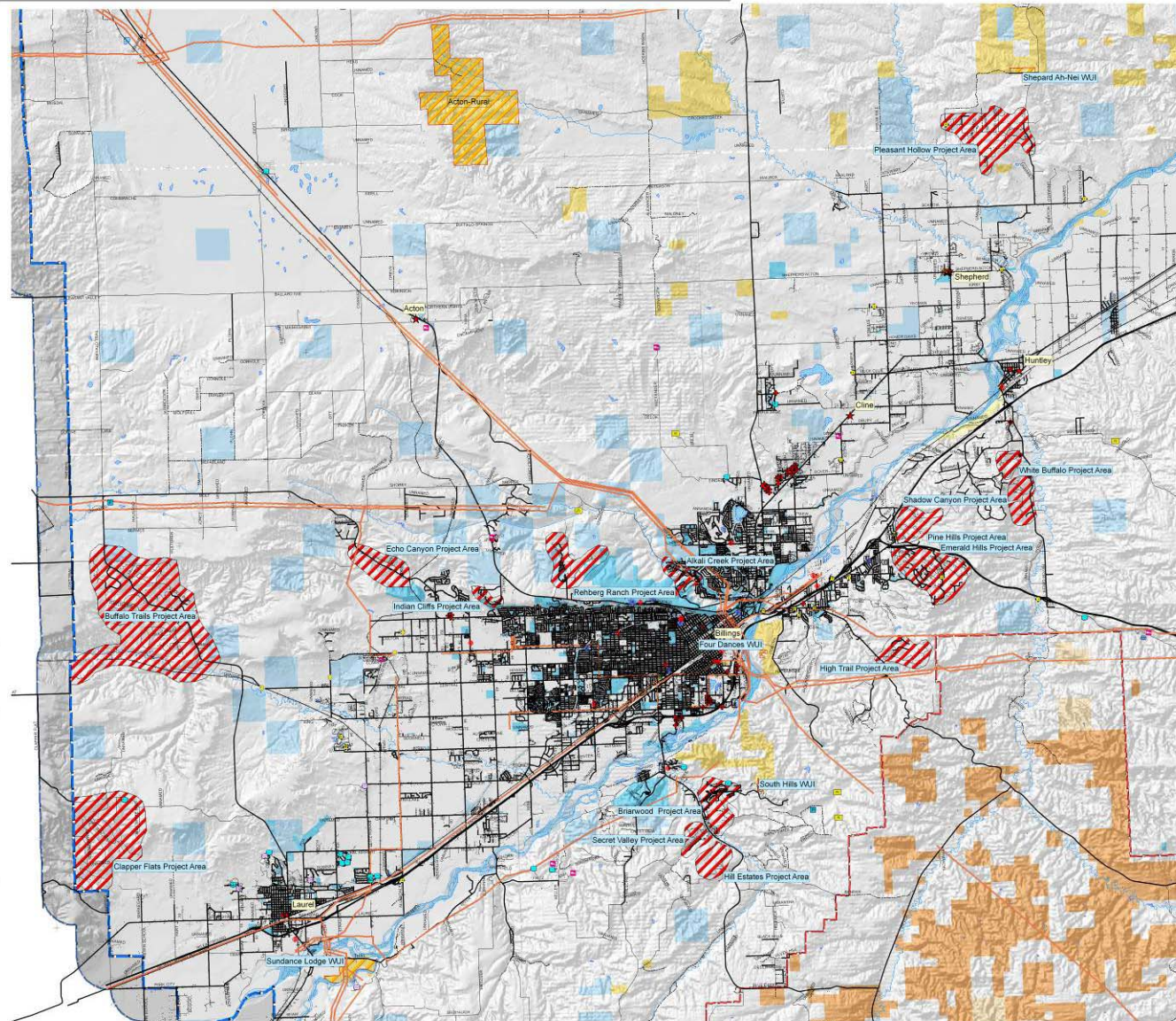
Fire Prone Landscapes
Significant Infrastructure





Yellowstone County, Montana Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Proposed Treatment Areas
Land Ownership
Significant Infrastructure



Legend

- ★ Communities
- stations
- Structures
- City Halls
- Emergency Services**
 - ★ AMBULANCE
 - ★ EOC
 - ★ POLICE
- WATER SOURCES**
 - WELL
 - SPRING
 - DITCH ACCESS
 - DRY HYDRANT
 - DRY HYDRANT (PROPOSED)
 - HYDRANT
 - TRUCK
 - WATER TANKS
 - PROPOSED WATER TANKS
 - POND
 - NWE Powerlines
- Road Surface**
 - ASPHALT
 - DIRT OR TWO TRACK
 - DIRT
 - GRADED DIRT
 - GRAVEL
 - practically non-existent
 - Railroad
 - Streams
- Ownership**
 - Yellowstone County
 - Crow Indian Reservatoin
 - Committee Project Areas
 - BLM Fuel Treatments
 - Open Water
 - Local Government
 - State Government
 - Tribal
 - USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - US Department of Defense
 - USDI Bureau of Land Management
 - USDI Bureau of Reclamation
 - USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
 - USDI National Park Service
 - Private
 - Undetermined
 - Right of Way
 - Water



After Planning Comes . . . Implementation





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